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ABSTRACT

This work, commissioned by the Presidents Academy of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), presents a variety of case studies illustrating the types of sensitive situations in which community college presidents may find themselves and offers advice on how best to prepare for and resolve such situations. It addresses some of the questions that emerged in discussions with the Presidents Academy executive committee, members of the AACC board of directors, and presidents from across the nation regarding the community college presidency. Examples include: what kinds of activities do some presidents engage in that are guaranteed to get them into trouble? when facing a difficult issue, what constructive actions can presidents take to resolve the issue? how can presidents analyze what mistakes they made in dealing with a given situation? and what lessons have presidents learned from dealing with a specific problem that might be of value to other presidents? There are a number of activities that are sure ways for a president to lose his or her balance in the office such as lying to or misleading the governing board, faculty, other members of the college community, or the public; and asking for reimbursement of funds without legal justification. (JA)